where there are few trade unions and the workers are trained by the management for participation in the Scheme. The feed back also indicates that in units where intense inter-union rivalry exists, the Scheme has not been found to be working satisfactorily.

Closure of Industries

†194. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the industries declared as closed till January, 2001;

(b) the number of employees rendered unemployed/affected as a result thereof;

(c) whether liberalisation policy is the cause of creating such circumstances in most of the cases; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to rehabilitate the labourers affected by it, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) According to provisional data of Labour Bureau 91 industrial establishments had closed down under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 between January, 2000 and December, 2000 and 4461 workers were affected as a result of this. Data for closures upto January, 2001 is not available.

(c) There is no conclusive evidence to show that the number of closures have increased as a result of liberalisation policy.

(d) Assistance is provided under counselling and Retraining Scheme for counselling, retraining and redeployment of workers rationalised from the organised sector. As on 31.1.2001, 71,604 rationalised workers were counselled, 53574 were retrained and 18.219 were redeployed.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

State Employees Provident Fund Office in Raipur

†195. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up State Employees Provident Fund Office and dsitrict-wise sub-area offices in the Raipur area of Chhattisgarh:

(b) if so, by when these are likely to start functioning;

(c) whether Government have made any proper arrangements in this direction; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) A Sub Regional Office of the Employees Provident Fund is already functioning at Raipur in the State of Chhattisgarh. In addition, a P.F. Office is also located in Bilaspur District. The existing office arrangement made by the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation for the E.P.F. Subscribers in Chhattisgarh is considered adequate.

Implementation of Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Act

196. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Act, 1996 and the Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Cess Act, 1996 have not yet been implemented;

(b) whether Government have any specific proposal to convene the meeting of all State Labour Ministers for this purpose; and

(c) whether it is a fact that all recognised Central Trade Unions have proper representation in the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) The Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 (Main Act) and the Building and Other

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Act, 1996 are under various stages of implementation by the State Governments. The Central Rules in this regard have been notified and the Central Government as 'appropriate Government' has notified various authorities under the Main Act. As labour is a concurrent subject, the State Governments are required to frame their own rules and notify their own authorities for implementation of the provisions of the Act in the State sphere. These actions are being taken up by the State Governments and the matter is being followed up.

(b) No. Sir.

(c) No. Sir. As there are limited number of seats in the Central Advisory Committee, it has not been found possible to accommodate all recognised Central Trade Unions.

Appointment in Instrumentalities under Government control

197. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the mechanism developed by Government to ensure that the procedure prescribed for appointment to the posts analogous to Joint Secretary and above in Government of India is adhered to in Instrumentalities under Government's control?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS OF PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): Appointment to posts analogous to Joint Secretary and above in instrumentalities is governed by the rules or procedures framed in this regard by the competent authority in accordance with the provisions of the statute or charter of their constitution. Unless specifically exempted, appointment in instrumentalities to posts at the level of Joint Secretary and above is considered and approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet in accordance with the procedure set out in this regard. While approving such appointments, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet ensures that the prescribed procedure had been followed in the proposed appointment.

Meetings of Hindi Salahakar Samiti

198. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) when the Hindi Salahakar Samiti was re-constituted in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions;

(b) the number of sittings of the Samiti held during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the efforts made to conduct its meeting regularly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS OF PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Hindi Salahakar Samiti of this Ministry was reconstituted on May 17, 2000.

(b) and (c) After reconstitution of the Samiti, action was initiated to hold its meeting. However, a meeting of the Samiti scheduled to be held on August 11, 2000, could not be held for certain unavoidable reasons. Before that, no meeting of the Samiti could be held as it could not be reconstituted earlier owing to various factors *viz.* non-completion of the process of seeking the requisite nominations for the Samiti, dissolution of the 11th and the 12th Lok Sabha on December 04, 1997 and April 26, 1999 respectively, etc. The meeting of the Samiti is now scheduled to be held on March 23, 2001.

Setting up of pension fund

199. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have mooted a new proposal for setting up of Pension Fund for the Central Government employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the proposed fund will cover the existing

pensioner of the Central Government also and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when the corpus of the new Pension Fund will be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS OF PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (d) Various alternative proposals including recommendation of Fifth Central Pay Commission for creation of Pension Fund for Central Government employees are being debated at various levels and fora of Government. Government has not taken any final decision to create a Pension Fund for Central Government servants.

Complaints regarding pensions

†200. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any complaints regarding pensions have been received from Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken for their disposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS OF PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A total number of 1034 compalints/grievances relating to various pensionary matters have been received from the pensioners living in the State of Maharashtra during January, 2000 to 31st December, 2000. The complaints belong to two categories:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(i) complaints of pensioners belonging to Central Government Department;

(ii) complaints from employees belonging to the Maharashtra Government or Maharashtra institutions.

The Department of Pension and Pensioners Welfare is the nodal Department for policy making, interpretation of rules and also redressal of grievances of pensioners belonging to the Central Government Departments. Sanction, disbursement and settlement of pension cases of Central Government servants have been fully decentralised and individual Departments are responsible for sanction and disbursement of pension to their pensioners. Employees belonging to State Governments, public sector undertakings and autonomous institutions are governed by the pensionary/retirement benefits as framed/adopted by them. The CCS (Pension) Rules apply only to the Central Government servants.

The Department of Pension and Pensioners Welfare receives complaints from Central Government pensioners as well as from the pensioners of various State Governments and autonomous institutions. While the Department of Pension and Pensioners Welfare facilities settlement of pensions belonging to Central Government, action to settle cases and redressal of grievances of pensioners belonging to the State Governments and their autonomous insitutions are to be considered by the respective State Governments and, therefore, complaints received from State Government pensioners are forwarded to the respective State Governments for their consideration. Necessary action has been taken in respect of complaints of both the above mentioned categories of pensioners in accordance with the existing procedure.

Reservation of SCs/STs and OBCs in Privatised Public Sector Units

201. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether keeping in view the privatisation of public sector units, Government have taken necessary steps to ensure that after privatisation these units make similar provisions in their recruitment

and promotion policy for persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes as were before their privatisation;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) if not, whether Government would issue directions to the privatised units to make provision of reservation for these categories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS OF PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

Annual Plan for Uttaranchal, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand

202. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given the final shape to the annual plans of Uttaranchal, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details of the plan outlays, State-wise;

(c) the details of growth rate, industrial and agriculture sectors, and the details of the target set with regard to primary, secondary and technical education and health and family welfare and urban development alongwith the allocation made therefore; and

(d) the details of the special additional package, if any, given to Uttaranchal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. As the plan proposals from the State Governments of Uttaranchal, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand have not yet been submitted for approval of Planning Commission,

the Government have not given the final shape to the Annual Plans of these states.

(c) The growth rates and targets of various sectors are not set by Planning Commission as a part of the planning process on annual basis. Allocations to various sectors are finalized only upon approval of the Annual Plan.

(d) No special additional package has been sanctioned to the State of Uttaranchal.

Swa-Niyojan Yojana

203. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1368 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd August, 2000 and state:

(a) whether the clarification sought by Government for the "Swa-Niyojan Yojana" have been received; and

(b) if so, the details of the action taken thereon, amount allocated and target set for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE)(a) and (b) Swa-Niyojan Yojana was included as a part of Annual Plan of Assam for the year 2000-01. Rs. 30 crore for Swa-Niyojan Yojana a self employment for educated youths of the State Government were provided as one time Additional Central Assistance in the Annual Plan 2000-01. Rs. 5 crore were to be borne by the state Government as a part of Annual Plan 2000-01.

The State Government has informed that new scheme titled Chief Minister's 'Swa-Niyojan Yojana', a self-employment programme for generation of self-employment for the unemployed youths was inaugurated on 16th December, 2000. The Yojana includes 41 (forty one) schemes covering 13 (thirteen) important sectors having high employment potential. The sector are Agriculture, Fisheries, Rural Development, Dairy Development, Animal Husbandry & Veterinary,

Industries & Commerce, Handloom & Textiles, Sericulture, Khadi & Village Industries, Tourism, Transport, Public Distribution system, Employment Opportunities in other parts of the Country and abroad.

In the current year the new scheme is expected to generate employment for around 35,000; of these those directly employed will be around 19,700 and those indirectly employed around 15,300.

Coastal Highway from Balasore to Gopalpur

204. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated cost of the project to construct a Coastal Highway from Balasore to Gopalpur in Orissa;

(b) the fund allocation made for the project so far; and

(c) the steps taken to expedite construction of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD). B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (c) Construction of Coastal Highway from Digha to Gopalpur is in proposal stage only. The State Government has submitted Terms of Reference for conducting Feasibility Study. This is under scurtiny in the Ministry. Details of the estimated cost of the Project will be known after completion of the Feasibility Study. So far no fund has been sanctioned by the Centre for this Project.

National Highways in Andhra Pradesh

205. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the State Highways which are proposed to be converted as National Highways in Andhra Pradesh during the year 2000-2001;

(b) what is the present requirement of length of Highways to be widened to four lanes; and

(c) what are the details of funds that are being allotted for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) A length of about 128 Kms. has been added to the NH network in Andhra Pradesh during 2000-2001. Expansion of National Highway network is considered from time to time keeping in view the traffic needs, *inter-se* priority of porposals and availability of funds. It is not possible to indicate details in advance.

(b) As per assessment a length of 2255 kms. of National Highways is required to be four laned in Andhra Pradesh. The development of NHs including widening is a continuous process and this is done in a phased manner keeping in view traffic needs, *inter-se* priority and the availability of funds.

(c) During 2000-2001, an amount of Rs. 102.38 crore has been provided so far to the Government of Andhra Pradesh for the development of National Highways in Andhra Pradesh.

National Highways in Himachal Pradesh

†206. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated and spent during the last year for construction of Shimla-Dharamshala, Pinjor Swarghat, Kala Amb-Paunta Sahib and Hoshiarpur-Mandi National Highways in Himachal Pradesh; and

(b) by when these highways are likely to be constructed and what is the estimated amount of expenditure to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD). B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Six number of improvement works amounting to Rs. 9.02 crore were sanctioned during the last year on these National

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Highways in the State of Himachal Pradesh and expenditure of Rs. 3.22 crore has been incurred till 31st Janauary, 2001.

(b) Development of National Highways is a continuous process and is being undertaken in phased manner depending upon the availability of funds and inter-se-priority of works.

North-South Transport Corridor

207. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to create an International North-South Transport Corridor;

(b) whether any agreement has been made with Russia and Iran in the matter;

(c) if so, what would be its financial implications;

(d) the time frame fixed for completion of the project;

(e) what would be the length of the proposed corridor; and

(f) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (d) An agreement has been signed on 12.9.2000 with Russia and Iran for operationalising North-south Transport Corridor. The financial implications have not been worked out precisely but it is perceived by the trade that the time and cost of moving the goods along this route would come down significantly. The Agreement is valid initially for a period of ten years.

(e) and (f) The Corridor involves the following stretches:—

(i) Indian Ports to Bandar Abbas in Iran By Sea

(ii) Bandar Abbas to Caspian Sea By Rail/Road in Iran

(iii) By Casian sea to Astrakhan in Russia

(iv) Beyond Astrakhan through river system and Railways.

Length of the corridor would vary depending on the port of origin and destination.

CNG Buses in Delhi

208. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether CNG buses are being introduced in the National Capital Territory of Delhi to reduce pollution;

(b) whether CNG is harmful for health;

(c) whether drivers and passengers may be victims of paralysis and cancer like diseases;

(d) whether any expert opinion was taken before placing orders for manufacturing of CNG buses; .

(e) if so, the details of their opinion; and

(f) whether the mattor regarding CNG buses is also in litigation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI.: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Emissions from CNG vehicles are comparatively less harmful for health than diesel and petrol vehicles.

(c) No, such case has been reported so far.

(d) No. Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Yes, Sir.

Change in Model Concession Agreement for construction of National Highways

209. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make changes in Model Concession Agreement for construction of National Highways development project to guarantee minimum rate of return to private investors;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other steps proposed to attract private sector investment in road sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government has already provided a number of incentives for private sector such as tax holiday for five years and 30% tax deduction for another five years, duty free import of construction equipment, capital subsidy upto 40% in Build-Operate-Transfer Agreements on case-to-case basis, etc. In addition, annuity approach whereby the entrepreneur is assured a fixed annual sum to recover the investment, is also being adopted.

Dream Highway Plan

210. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister's Dream Highway Plan was approved by Government and an amount of Rs. 30,300 crore has been earmarked for investment in this plan;

(b) if so, whether any concrete action plan has been prepared in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the amount earmarked for 2001-2002;

(e) the works to be carried out during this period; and

(f) by when this plan is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) Government approved in December, 2000, an investment of Rs. 30,300 crore for a programme of 40 sub-projects forming part of the National Highway Development Project (NHDP) to be taken up during the two years, i.e. 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 as well as other on going projects on NHDP and non-NHDP routes.

(c) 40 sub-projects approved by Government envisage 4/6/8 laning in a length of 4659 km. Of this, 4144 km. are on Golden Quadrilateral, 405 km on North-South and East-West Corridors and 110 km. are port connectivity projects.

(d) As the demands for grant for the year 2001-2002 is yet to be approved by Parliament, it is not possible to indicate the amount earmarked for the project.

(e) The works to be carried out during the period are the on-going works and the new works on the approved 40 sub-projects.

(f) Golden Quadrilateral component will be completed by December, 2003, and North-South and East-West Corridor component by December, 2007.

Levy of user charges and restoration fee

211. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has directed his ministry to seek Attorney General's opinion on the proposed levy of user charges and restoration fee towards compensation against the

damages caused to roads by telecom operators and multi-media player while laying down the optical fibre network;

(b) if so, whether the Attorney General has given his opinion; and

(c) to what extent, both the Ministers have agreed to implement the above proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The question of interpretation on the policy had arisen in a case, hence the opinion of Attorney General has been sought, which is awaited.

Ban on plying fifteen years old vehicles in Delhi

212. SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to curb vehicular pollution in the Capital (Delhi), Government have decided to ban plying of private vehicles which are more than 15 years old, irrespective of the pollution control devices and measures adopted by such buses; and

(b) if so, the reasons for such a drastic measures impinging on the Fundamental Rights of citizens; and whether in order to control vehicular pollution any other effective steps are being adopted, if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI): (a) No, Sir. The plying of 15 years old commercial/transport vehicles only has been banned in compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. Plying of old commercial/transport vehicles of 15 years age and above has been banned *w.e.f.* 1st January, 1999.

(b) In the light of the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, a number of measures such as introduction of Metro Rail, provision of clean fuel, provision of financial

incentives, phasing out of old commercial vehicles etc. have been taken.

Closure of SSI units

213. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the major factors responsible for closure of small and medium scale industrial units in different parts of the country;

(b) the number of labourers rendered jobless in these closed units, category-wise; and

(c) the steps Government have taken to provide employment to these experienced workers and technicians?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The major factors responsible for sickness/closure of small and medium scale industrial units are inadequacy of credit, technological obsolescence, marketing problems, managerial inadequacies etc. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) maintains data on sick SSI units and not for closed units. The data on number of labourers rendered jobless as a result of closure of industrial units is not maintained by the RBI.

(c) Government has been providing assistance under Counselling and Retraining Scheme for counselling, retraining and redeployment of workers rationalised from organised sector. As on 31.01.2001, 71,604 rationalised workers have been counselled, 53,574 retrained and 18,219 redeployed.